

Message Text

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21-12

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

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FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7716

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEXBASSY SANAA

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUWAIT 3424

FROM QUINLAN MUSCAT

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MU MASS PFOR KU QA UK

SUBJ: SALADINS FOR OMAN

REF: STATE 179713

1. ARMORED VEHICLES NOW IN (LIMITED) USE IN OMAN ARE EIGHT SALADINS, FIVE FERRET SCOUT CARS, AND ONE CADILLAC-GAGE VEHICLE RECEIVED IN 1965 AND BEING USED BY DHOFAR GENDERMERIE. OTHER THREE CADILLAC-GAGE VEHICLES PUT OUT OF SERVICE BY ENEMY ACTION BETWEEN 1966 AND 1971.

2. I WOULD NOT ATTEMPT MAKE PROFESSIONAL COMPARISON OF MERITS CADILLAC-GAGE AND SALADIN AS WEAPONS AND HAVE NOT DISCUSSED WITH SAF OFFICERS, BUT I DO DOUBT ADVISABILITY OF INTRODUCING SOPHISTICATED (AND EXPENSIVE) MACHINE SUCH AS CADILLAC-GAGE WHICH WOULD REQUIRE EXTENSIVE TRAINING AND MAINTENANCE PROGRAM.

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SAF NOW HAS BARELY CAPACITY TO MAINTAIN SIMPLE TRUCKS AND PRESENT

SMALL STOCK OF SALADINS.

3. ON THE OTHER HAND, I HAVE BEEN TOLD AGED SALADINS NOW IN JORDAN ARE NOT IN GOOD CONDITION AND, BECAUSE SALADIN HAS BEEN OUT OF PRODUCTION SOME YEARS, LACK SPARE PARTS. IF SALADINS FROM JORDAN COULD BE PUT IN FIRST-CLASS CONDITON PRIOR TO ARRIVAL, AND SPARE PARTS PROVIDED, THEN SAF COULD MAKE USE OF THEM. WISH TO EMPHASIZE, HOWEVER, THAT A MAJOR PROBLEM OF SAF HAS BEEN PROCUREMENT OF REPLACEMENT PARTS FOR AGED AIRCRAFT, WEAPONS AND VEHICLES NO LONGER IN PRODUCTION. WE SHOULD EXERCISE GREAT CARE NOT TO INTRODUCE EQUIPMENT WHICH IS LIKELY TO BECOME MAJOR MAINTENANCE PROBLEM OR UNUSEABLE.
STOLTZFUS

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